Living Conditions in Jails

1425. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government plan to improve the living and hygienic conditions in different jails all over the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and how much funds were allocated during the last five years from Central funds?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) and (b) As 'Prisons' is a State subject as per the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India, it is primarily for the State Governments to plan improvement in the living and hygienic conditions in jails. However, the Central Government has been providing financial assistance to the State Governments for improving their prison infrastructure. Under the Scheme of Modernisation of Prison Administration, Central assistance aggregating to Rs. 64.68 crores was released to the State Governments during the period 1994-95 to 1998-99. In addition, the Tenth Finance Commission has also released grants amounting to Rs. 41.48 crores since 1996-97 for the repair and renovation of jail buildings and for providing medical facilities.

Weekly Extortion in Commercial Cities

1426. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that weekly extortion in all the major commercial cities of the country has taken a dangerous form;

(b) if so, whether there is any law to check this practice, to instil a sense of relief and security among the people;

(c) if so, the details thereof, together with the action being taken by Government to implement the same; and

(d) if not, by when Government would enact a law in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.